

A² cont *Sub B⁴ cont* wherein said plurality of imaging members are provided on a downstream side of said reflecting member along a direction of a light polarized by said deflecting means.--

REMARKS

Of the original claims, only Claim 11 has been retained in amended form, and that claim is believed to be patentable over the cited references for the reasons set forth herein.

Claim 11 was rejected as being anticipated by the disclosure of the Nakajima patent. Both Claim 11 and Nakajima relate to a light source, a deflector, a mirror, and a lens, for directing image light to an image bearing member. However, as now amended, Claim 11 requires a "plurality of lenses" which "are provided on a downstream side of said mirror". Nakajima, on the other hand, as illustrated in Fig. 6A, for example, discloses a light path to image bearing member 28, and a light path to image bearing member 29, and neither of those light paths satisfy the terms of Claim 11. In the path to member 28 there are two mirrors having a single lens 18 disposed therebetween, and no plurality of lenses downstream of the mirror, as set forth in Applicants' Claim 11. In the path to member 29, Nakajima discloses only a single lens, not a plurality, downstream of a mirror 26. Again this differs from Claim 11 which requires a plurality of lenses disposed downstream, as illustrated, for example, in Figs. 1, 4, and 8 of Applicants' drawings.

Applicants submit that the secondary references also fail to disclose this claimed structure of Claim 11. This important feature of Applicants' claimed invention permits the plurality of lenses to correct for an inclination or distortion of the mirrors.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 11 is patentably distinct over the cited references, as are all of Claims 15 - 22 which depend therefrom.

Similarly, Claim 23 also requires a plurality of lenses "provided on a downstream side of said mirror". Accordingly, Claim 23 and its dependent Claims 24 - 29 are believed to be patentable over the cited references for the same reasons given above with respect to Claim 11.

Finally, Claims 30 and 31 refer to a plurality of imaging members, instead of lenses. Again, the imaging members are required to be "provided on a downstream side" of the reflecting members, wherefore Claims 30 and 31 are believed to be patentably distinct over the references for the same reasons given above with respect to Claims 11 and 23.

For all of these various reasons, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of all of the pending Claims, and a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

11. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
- a light source;
- rotational deflecting means for deflecting light emitted from said light source [by a rotation];
- a mirror for [deflecting] reflecting the light deflected by said deflecting means;
- an image bearing [body] member to which the light [deflected] reflected by said mirror is irradiated; and
- a plurality of [lens] lenses for image-forming the light [deflected] reflected by said mirror [deflecting means] onto said image bearing [body] member,
- wherein in an optical path along which the light deflected by said deflecting means is directed toward said image bearing [body] member, said [lens is] plurality of lenses are provided on a downstream side of said mirror.